

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02
FAA-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 IO-13
L-03 /077 W

-----241729Z 024637 /43

O R 241613Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2752

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 1378

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CZ

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: EXTENSION OF BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT
(ATA)

REF: (A) PRAGUE 1202 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 105465 (NOTAL),
(C) PRAGUE 1149, (D) STATE 042647

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY REPORTS ON LATEST MEETING WITH ZEMLA
ON ATA EXTENSION. ZEMLA OFFERS ASSURANCES ON THREE CONDITIONS
MENTIONED REF B PROVIDING EMBASSY SENDS NEW DRAFT NOTE MINUS
60-DAY TERMINATION PARAGRAPH. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS IS FIRMEST
COMMITMENT FROM MFA WE CAN GET AND WILL DELIVER NEW NOTE
UNLESS DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS US TO CONTRARY BY COB MAY 25.
ACTION REQUESTED: ADVISE IMMEDIATE IF NEW DRAFT NOTE
SHOULD NOT BE DELIVERED. END SUMMARY.

2. E/C COUNSELOR MET WITH ZEMLA, MIN. FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
MAY 24 FOR LATEST SESSION ON EXTENSION OF ATA.

3. AT OUR REQUEST, ZEMLA LED OFF BY GIVING GOC
FOLLOW-UP TO OUR MAY 3 MEETING (REF C). BRIEFLY STATED,
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ZENLA SAIDIZOC WOULD ACCEPT SYRIA VICE YUGOSLAVIA AS BEYOND
POINT BUT "COULD NOT" ACCEPT 60-DAY TERMINATION PERIOD.
HE VAGUELY SUGGESTED, IN PLACE OF 60-DAY TERMINATION COMPLICATED
FORMULA WHEREBY DESIGNATED AIRLINES WOULD MEET FOLLOWED BY,
IF NECESSARY, CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES TO DISCUSS
SALES QUOTA PROBLEM, WITH APPARENT RESULT THAT 60-DAY TERMINATION
PERIOD WOULD BE STRETCHED OUT TO 6-MONTHS ALREADY

STIPULATED IN ATA. (COMMENT: EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS LEGALISTIC PROPOSAL MERITS SERIOUS STUDY BY U.S. AS IT SEEMS TO OFFER US NOTHING BUT FURTHER DELAY.) ZEMLA THEN SAID INTERIM PRAGUE-DAMASCUS TRAFFIC RIGHTS COULD NOT BE GRANTED ON INTERIM BASIS BUT ONLY AFTER ATA IS ACTUALLY EXTENDED. HE ALSO SAID GOC FIGURES SHOW PANAM SALES FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 1977, WERE \$290,780, WHICH INDICATES CSA WILL MEET ITS \$2 MILLION TWO-YEAR SALES QUOTA COMMITMENT.

4. E/C COUNSELOR THEN CONVEYED POINTS CONTAINED REF B. ZEMLA WAS HIGHLY RELIEVED TO LEARN THAT USG WILLING TO DROP 60-DAY TERMINATION, AND IN RESPONSE TO SOME PRESSURE, FINALLY OFFERED FOLLOWING ASSURANCES ON 3 CONDITIONS OUTLINED PARA 3 OF REF B:

(A) ONCE MFA RECEIVES NEW DRAFT NOTE DELETING 60-DAY TERMINATION TEXT (PARA 3 OF ORIGINAL DRAFT NOTE, REF D), ZEMLA SAYS ATA EXTENSION WILL BE APPROVED WITHIN 2 TO 5 WEEKS, DEPENDING ON HOW FAST MIN. OF TRANSPORT AND OTHER GOC BUREAUCRATS MOVE.

(B) AFTER RECEIPT OF NEW DRAFT NOTE, MFA WILL URGE MIN. TRANSPORT TO ISSUE INTERIM TRAFFIC RIGHTS IMMEDIATELY. ZEMLA ESTIMATES THIS CAN BE DONE IN ABOUT ONE WEEK. E/C CONSELOR PRESSED FOR RIGHTS FOR NEXT (MAY 30) FLIGHT, BUT ZEMLA SAID THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE.

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(C) ZEMLA GAVE GENERAL ORAL ASSURANCE OF GOC'S BEST EFFORTS TO SEE THAT CSA MEETS QUOTA COMMITMENT. FURTHER, HE SAID THAT DEP. FONMIN SPACIL WILL GIVE SIMILAR ORAL ASSURANCES AT TIME NOTES EXTENDING ATA ARE FORMALLY EXCHANGED, PROVIDING AMB. BYRNE REPEATS U.S. ASSURANCES (GIVEN BY E/C COUNSELOR TO ZEMLA ON MAY 3, REF C) THAT USG WILL AGREE TO DISCUSS SALES QUOTA IN CASE OF "SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES." (FYI: AMBASSADOR HAS NO PROBLEM WITH THIS IF IT WILL EXPEDITE CONCLUSION OF THIS LONG DRAWN-OUT AFFAIR.)

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES ABOVE IS FIRMEST COMMITMENT WE CAN EXPECT FROM ZEMLA AT THIS STAGE. WE ARE EAGER TO MOVE AHEAD BY SENDING NEW DRAFT NOTE (MINUS ORIGINAL PARA 3) AS AUTHORIZED REF B TO START GOC MACHINERY WORKING ON EXTENSION AND INTERIM TRAFFIC RIGHTS. WE PROPOSE TO SEND NEW DRAFT NOTE (ADDRESSED TO SPACIL FROM AMBASSADOR) IF DEPARTMENT DOES NOT INSTRUCT US NOT TO DO SO BY COB WEDNESDAY,

MAY 25.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE BY IMMEDIATE (NOT NIACT)
CABLE IF EMBASSY SHOULD NOT DELIVER NEW DRAFT NOTE PER PARA-
GRAPH 5.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRAGUE01378
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770185-0052
Format: TEL
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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